

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, 15-17 and 20 are pending. Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, 15-17 and 20 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 1 and 12 have been amended, and no new claims have been added. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 12 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0010], [0019], and [0025] of the present application. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, 15-17 and 20 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 12, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunfield et al. U.S. Patent No. 5, 774,974.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dunfield fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for supporting a stator including a second support member attached to a portion of the stator, "thereby altering a resonant frequency of the stator in response to vibrations," as recited by amended claim 1. Claim 12 has been similarly amended to recite a second support member attached to the stator, "thereby altering a resonant frequency of the stator in response to vibrations." As described in the present application, e.g., in paragraphs [0010], [0019], and [0025], supporting two portions of the stator (e.g., at an inner radial portion and an outer radial portion) may alter the resonant frequency of the motor vibrations (relative to a stator supported at only one portion, e.g., the inner radial portion). These features of claims 1 and 12 are clearly not disclosed or suggested by Dunfield.

The Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action that Dunfield discloses: "the second support (40) is also used to retain the flow of adhesive resin, therefore the first and second support member are fixedly attached to the stator thereby reducing the displacement of the stator (50)

relative to the base (52) in response to vibration.” In examples where wire guide 40 is not removed following soldering, wire guide 40 remains merely to retain adhesive when stator 50 is potted. (see, e.g., col. 3, line 59- col. 4, line 24, and in particular, col. 4, lines 20-24). Therefore, although resin may cover a portion of stator 50, which may dampen vibrations of stator 50, there is no indication or suggestion that the combination of wire guide 40 and resin alters the resonant frequency of stator 50 as recited in amended claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Dunfield does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 1 and 12 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 8-10, 15-17, and 20 depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively and should be allowable over Dunfield for at least similar reasons.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 2, 4, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunfield et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,774,974 in view of Dunfield et al. 5,694,268.

Claims 2, 4, 15, and 17 depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively and should be allowable over Dunfield for at least similar reasons as claims 1 and 12. The addition of Dunfield ‘268 fails to cure the deficiencies of Dunfield identified above. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712007100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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